10/26/73

Dear Maureen,

Many thanks! I'm busy working on something else, so I've just skimmed, seeing enough to have me looking forward to the time when I can read with care and attention. There is help on what I've been working on for a long time. It is entirely consistent with what I believe and I think in the end will be able to prove.

I'll come back to this. I don t want to forget again what I noted when you and Barry were both away. If he has any interest in the name of the woman Hunt wanted the CIA to return from Paris for him - it would not and it suppressed her name - I think I may have spotted it. That it was not unknown does not have to indicate that the spooks were up to something because this is their way of life. There is the last name of a woman in a Colson transcript I have and I'm sure Barry has. I think in the form of his asking a question consisting of her last name.

Also, there may be a lead on information about Nixon's past. I cannot assure it. Here is the story. When my wife and I worked on the Hill, we were friends with Hiram Johnson's secretary. This was before your time and Barry's. After Johnson retired or died, she retired to California. Because she was so savvy and a dedicated Republican, she was dragooned into Nixon's first vice-presidential campaign. She did not want to, hated Nixon and was persuaded to pitch in only out of party loyalty. After he won, when there were great prospects for her, she would have none of it and returned to California, I believe the San Francisco area. She and mywife were close. It is my wife's recollection that after the election, she lost some of her anti-Nixonism. I would be inclined to believe that Watergate made a big difference to her. I would be inclined to believe that she could be a store of knowledge. I have no way of knowing whether she would unload any of it if asked. She must be well along in years now because she was older than we and we are 60. If anyone wants to seek her out, her name is Gemma O'Brien (Italian-Irish.) If she is not in the phone book or city directory, there may be a lead to where she is in her friends of the past. She was friends with the people who operated a mamouth industrial farm, El Solyo ranch. She sent us, in the late 1930s, a crate of a dozen peaches from there so large the dozen required a whole crate to hold them. They might know where she is.

What I did not see is a three-page letter from Hunt to Colson, the one interpreted as a threat, I believe dating to about January 1973. It was used by the Ervin committee. It is in evidence but the committee will not part with it. ~~THXXXXXXXXXXXX XXXX~~ Not even to a Senator, makes me even more interested. I believe that among the remaining Hunt mysteries is the real nature of his relationship with Colson. Colson spent much time and effort covering this up.

Has the conflict of interest attributed to his first lawyer, Bittman, been let out? Cox asked Bittman to end his representation of Hunt over it.

I regret not establishing a Caddy file for there continue to be hints that he should be a person of interest. If you have one and it presents no great problem in copying, I sure would like to go over it. When Hunt was on the lam, despite their previous relationship and Hunt's desire for a lawyer so he could return, when Caddy was offered ~~him~~ to him by Liddy through an intermediary, Hunt declined. Thus Bittman. Yet Hunt did provide him to the others and he and Hunt did share an office for some time. And he wore such expensive clothing it attracted police attention.

Again thanks.

Sincerely,